

**CITY OF GAHANNA  
PARKS & RECREATION BOARD  
MINUTES – September 5, 2007**

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**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chair Luke Messinger called the Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board to order on Wednesday, September 5, 2007 at 7:00 pm at the City of Gahanna.

**ROLL CALL:**

|                        |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|
| <b><u>Present:</u></b> | Diane Cantrell   |
|                        | Marlene Eader    |
|                        | Luke Messinger   |
|                        | Dot Micacchion   |
|                        | Eric Miller      |
|                        | Dave Thom        |
|                        | Vincent Tremante |

In attendance from the City Administration was Tony Collins, Director and Troy Euton, Deputy Director, Department of Parks & Recreation.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Miller made a **MOTION** to approve the August 1, 2007 meeting minutes; seconded by Thom. **On roll call vote:** Messinger, Yes, Micacchion, Yes, Miller, Yes, Thom, Yes, Tremante, Yes and Eader, Yes. **The motion carried 6-0.**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Tremante made a **MOTION** to approve the September 5, 2007 agenda; seconded by Eader. **On roll call vote:** Micacchion, Yes, Miller, Yes, Thom, Yes, Tremante, Yes, Eader, Yes and Messinger, Yes. **The motion carried 6 – 0.**

Diane Cantrell arrived at this time.

**VISITORS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Lynne Vermillion 647 Ridenour Road Gahanna, Ohio

**HEARING OF VISITORS**

Lynne Vermillion 647 Ridenour Road Gahanna, Ohio requested an update on the Dog Park Advisory Committee. Pooch Playground volunteers having been informing dog park visitors at Hannah Farms Park of the move to Pizzurro Park. Vermillion stated the newspaper article was confusing in regards to fencing at Pizzurro Park. Vermillion said several users feel that the reason for the move of the dog park is due to the Parade of Homes being next door. Vermillion said people would like to know what property the City owns along the road into Pizzurro Park.

Tony Collins said the City owns a narrow strip along the creek and other side of the

road. Future plans are for the City of Gahanna to take ownership of 29 acres of property. The acreage is part of a parkland dedication, and the City is waiting on the dedication.

Collins discussed the conceptual layout and fencing for the Dog Park at Pizzurro Park. The City will have a firm draw up a site plan for the new Dog Park Advisory Committee for review and comments.

Micacchion requested the reason Pizzurro Park was chosen for the Dog Park? Collins stated that staff recommended Pizzurro Park due to its size – it has the available acreage, natural resources available, trees and shade, ability to light the sight, and a water feature.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

### **Dog Park Advisory Committee**

A list of volunteers for the Dog Park Advisory Committee was distributed to the Board members. Collins stated Board member Micacchion requested to serve on the committee, parks staff member and Pizzurro family member John Pizzurro has volunteered to serve on the committee.

Thom asked if city code states that a person has to be residents of Gahanna to serve on committees. Collins said that it is not in code it is up to the board to make the decision. After some discussion the Board decided that you need to be a Gahanna resident in order to serve on the Dog Park Advisory Committee.

The Board discussed that the number of Committee members should be five to seven residents in addition to police representation and a local veterinarian. The Committee will assist and provide guidance and recommendations for the development and on-going operations of the Dog Park.

Collins stated the initial meeting of the Dog Park Advisory Committee will be Monday, September 24, 2007 at 6 pm at City Hall in Council Chambers. The Committee will discuss the organizational structure and additional meeting dates.

Thom made a **MOTION** that the Dog Park Advisory Committee members must be A resident of the City of Gahanna; seconded by Miller. **On roll call vote:** Miller, Yes, Thom, Yes, Tremante, No, Cantrell, Yes, Eader, Yes, Messinger, Yes and Micacchion, No. **Motion carried 7 – 2 and was approved.**

### **Hannah Farms Park update**

Collins presented the conceptual plan of Hannah Farms Park that will go to Planning Commission for approval. The park will include several playing fields, activity sport courts, playground, shelter house, leisure paths and ponds.

Tremante would like to see an overlay map that includes the natural resources data from the park.

Euton explained that Phase I of the plan is concentrating on the site and grading work,

utility infrastructure, aggregate installation of the asphalt. Phase II concentrates on the amenities, playground, sidewalk, details architectural components using the agricultural farm angle, the maintenance area will be a barn, the playground will be a family farm theme, gardens, incorporating green methods.

The parking lots and roads will be completed by the time of the 2008 Parade of Homes. The site is an overflow site, parking lots only. There will be no parking on any of the fields. The intent is to have all the green planting completed by the Parade of Homes in order for the fields to be used beginning in 2009 for sports.

### **Youth Council Representative**

Beginning in October two Youth Council Representatives will be attending the Parks Board meetings.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **Urban Hunting Program**

Collins explained the department has worked with Chief Murphy in regards to the notification to residents. There were public notices in the local papers for three weeks.

Euton explained that interested hunters had to attend an orientation session prior to the hunting season. Board members were given maps of the hunting areas. Pizzurro Park has been removed from the hunting areas.

The deer are devastating Gahanna Woods, the department is looks at the program as a natural resource management issue. The department is working with ODNR on a sharp shooter program to manage the deer population.

#### **Meet the Candidates Lunch Forum**

Collins invited the Board to attend the Forum sponsored by the Gahanna Chamber of Commerce, the Gahanna Department of Parks & Recreation's Youth Council and an "InCahoots" grant by the Ohio Resource Network. The forum is scheduled for Wednesday, September 12, 2007, 11:30 am – 1 pm, at New Life Church, 3690 Stygler Road, Gahanna.

#### **Donation and Fee Waiver Request**

The Board reviewed the donation and fee waiver requests. The organizations making request are:

1. Gahanna High School – Boys & Girls Soccer Team Fundraiser on September 16, 2007.
2. Columbus Speech & Hearing Center – Fundraiser on November 2, 2007
3. Teays Valley High School – Sports Teams – Fundraiser on September 8, 2007
4. Gahanna Jaycees – Fee waiver request for use of Woodside Green Shelter on October 28, 2007 for a free-Community Halloween Party.
5. Wonderland Community Church – Fee waiver request for use of Golf Course Clubhouse on December 23, 2007 for a Christmas Dinner
6. Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation – Fee waiver request for use of Friendship Park Shelter on September 16, 2007 for a family picnic/cookout.

Tremante made a **MOTION** that the Board support the recommendation of four golf passes to Gahanna High School Soccer Teams, two golf passes to Columbus Speech & Hearing Center and Teays Valley High School; seconded by Miller. **On roll call vote:** Thom, Yes, Tremante, Yes, Cantrell, Yes, Eader, yes, Messinger, Yes, Micacchion, Abstain and Miller, Yes. **Motion carried 7- with 1 abstain and was approved.**

Cantrell made a **MOTION** that the Board support the recommendation for a fee waiver for the Gahanna Jaycees use of Woodside Green Shelter for a free community Halloween party, in recognition of the work equity they provide the Department of Parks & Recreation and the event is for the community; seconded by Thom. **On roll call vote:** Tremante, Yes, Cantrell, Yes, Eader, Yes, Messinger, Yes, Micacchion, yes, Miller, Yes and Thom, Yes. **Motion carried 7 - 0 and was approved in recognition of their work equity and the event is for the community.**

Thom made a **MOTION** that the Board support the recommendation for a fee waiver for Wonderland Church for use of the Golf Course Clubhouse; seconded by Micacchion. **On roll call vote:** Cantrell, No, Eader, No, Messinger, No, Micacchion, No, Miller, No, Thom, No and Tremante, No. **Motion carried 7 - 0 and was denied.**

Tremante made a **MOTION** that the Board support the recommendation for a fee waiver for Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation for use of Friendship Park Shelter; seconded by Cantrell. **On roll call vote:** Eader, No, Messinger, No, Micacchion, No, Miller, No, Thom, No, Tremante, No and Cantrell, No. **Motion carried 7 - 0 and was denied.**

## **CORRESPONDENCE AND ACTIONS**

Several thank you letters were passed around.

## **DIRECTORS REPORT**

Collins distributed the Director's Report, which includes the highlights from the Service to the Community Awards, pool, golf course and programs. At Creekside Park there is an area where a path has been worn. The department has put logs and debris on the path, the hope is to have it return to a natural state. At the cemetery by the board walk, kids are riding down the hill from the cemetery to the board walk. The department is working on the hill to resolve the issue. The department has begun draining the ponds at Foxwood and Rice Ave.

Collins explained that the lease agreement for the cell tower went to Council for the first reading without input or comment. The second reading was tabled in order for the City to work on a wireless communication ordinance. The company that was reviewing the ordinance was asked to review the lease agreement. The response to the agreement is a 35 page report of recommendations and changes that should be made to the contract between the city and Sprint/Nextel. The report has been given back to the city attorney for review. Council has postponed the contract for further review.

During this time period it was learned that there was a lack of communication with residents adjacent to the park. Residents received a letter with the information regarding the cell tower placement with the address of Academy Park, not listing the

name of the Park. Some residents researched the address on the County Auditors web site, the County Auditor has the address listed as a different address than the city has. The residents notified the other residents who signed a petition that they are opposing the location of the tower. They requested council to reconsider the location.

Collins distributed photos received from a resident regarding the location of the cell tower. After much discussion the Board decided not to make another recommendation regarding the placement of the cell tower at Academy Park unless Council makes a formal request of the Board.

## **COMMITTEES' REPORT**

### **Bikeway Advisory Committee**

Collins explained the committee is prioritizing their funding recommendation to deal with the Big Walnut Path first. They have spent the past two meetings listening to presentations from Edsell and Associations and Floyd Brown. The Committee's recommendation to Council is Floyd Brown.

### **Community Improvement Corporation (C.I.C.)**

Cantrell said the group looked at the contract with the consultants that will establish a SID in Gahanna. The SID can be with both residents and businesses; the consultant will look at both.

### **Creekside Development Team meeting**

Micacchion stated the next meeting is September 27<sup>th</sup> at 8 am, for a hard hat tour of Creekside.

### **Natural Resource Advisory Committee**

Tremante stated the Committee has the natural resource information and recommendations for Academy Park. Hannah Farms Park has been completed; Pizzurro Park is scheduled for September 22<sup>nd</sup>; including the wooded forest and creek area. There is a possible grant for invasive species removal the committee will research.

### **Foundation Committee**

No updates at this time

### **Veterans Memorial Committee**

No updates at this time

## **POLL MEMBERS FOR COMMENT:**

Tremante stated Music in the Park was great; British Invasion was a great ending to the series. Tremante like the looks of the logs blocking the worn path at Creekside, after a couple of years of growth it should not be an issue.

Eader stated she was sorry she missed the Service to the Community Awards. She had the dedication of the football field and the first game of the season. Eader would like to see the date moved up a week to accommodate the first home game.

Micacchion stated she received a phone call regarding an exercise that is taking place with the City and the High School on September 6<sup>th</sup>. Eader explained it is an Emergency response drill of a terrorist attack on the High School.

Collins explained there are simulated drills all over Franklin County on September 6<sup>th</sup>. The City of Gahanna begins their drill around 3:15 pm after the High School has let out. Collins explained the phone call was a Code Red automated system. The City of Gahanna has purchased the system to notify residents via the phone of emergencies. The message notified 7,000 residents in 15 minutes regarding the drill. Collins explained the system will only be used for emergencies and also by Senior Citizens who request daily check in calls. The senior check in service will be free to Gahanna Senior Residents.

Thom stated he enjoyed the Service to the Community Awards and the new shelter house. Thom would like to see the Golf Course membership increase. Tony explained the department has dedicated a full time staff member to the Golf Course and Pool operations.

Cantrell commented on the new playgrounds. She distributed an article from the Parks & Recreation Business magazine regarding new play systems that has kids playing longer and more energetically. Cantrell commented on the number of kids served at day camp and would like to know where the population of kids are from.

Miller commented that the Golf Course is always busy on the weekends. There is normally a half hour wait time to tee off; the play normally takes just over two hours.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before the Parks & Recreation Board at this time, Miller made a **MOTION** to adjourn; seconded by Micacchion. The motion carried, unanimously.

The Parks & Recreation Board meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Pam Crossmock, Administrative Assistant

Approved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2007

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Luke Messinger, Chair